

## Message Text

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71

ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/BC:JEKARKASHIAN:NG

APPROVED BY ARA:HSHLAUDEMAN

ARA/PLC:LT COL JWILLIAMS

S/S -MR. GAMMON

PM /SAS - MR. GREY

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O 182258Z OCT 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 207117

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, MILI

SUBJECT: SALE OF DESTROYERS

1. DURING OCTOBER 17 CONVERSATION BETWEEN CHILEAN CHARGE ADMIRAL EBERHARD, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHLAUDEMAN AND ACTING COUNTRY DIRECTOR KARKASHIAN, SUBJECT OF PENDING SALE OF 2 SURPLUS FRAM-II DESTROYERS CAME UP. EBERHARD SAID HE HAD HAD INQUIRIES FROM SANTIAGO ON THIS SUBJECT AND EXPRESSED CHILEAN NAVY'S CONTINUING INTEREST IN ACQUIRING THESE VESSELS.

2. SHLAUDEMAN ACKNOWLEDGED THE U.S. OFFER IN JUNE 1973 TO SELL THESE VESSELS IN OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1973 TIME FRAME AND REITERATED OUR DESIRE TO HONOR EXISTING COMMITMENTS. AT THE SAME TIME, HE REFERRED TO CONVERSATIONS HELD WITH FOREIGN MINISTER HUERTA DURING LATTER'S VISIT TO THE DEPARTMENT ON OCTOBER 11 IN WHICH WE POINTED OUT THE SEVERE PROBLEMS WE HAVE WITH PROVIDING CERTAIN TYPES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT AT THIS TIME. DESTROYERS WOULD CLEARLY FALL IN THE DIFFICULT CATEGORY. SHLAUDEMAN EMPHASIZED THAT WE HAD NOT YET MADE A FINAL DECISION ON THE DESTROYER SALE AND  
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WERE STILL EXPLORING POSSIBILITIES.

3. EBERHARD EXPRESSED HIS UNDERSTANDING OF U.S. PROBLEM AND ASKED WHETHER TURNOVER COULD BE MADE AFTER A SHORT

DELAY OF ANOTHER MONTH OR TWO. SHLAUDEMANN NOTED TECHNICAL

PROBLEMS ON OUR NAVY SIDE MIGHT PRECLUDE ANY SIGNIFICANT DELAY. HE ADDED THAT UNFORTUNATELY OTHER DESTROYERS MIGHT NOT BECOME AVAILABLE IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. EBERHARD INDICATED HE WOULD ADVISE THE GOC OF THE PROBLEM AND AWAIT FURTHER WORD FROM US. SHLAUDEMANN SAID WE WOULD ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE A DECISION AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

4. EBERHARD SAID HE WAS PREPARING A NOTE TO THE DEPARTMENT WITH A LONG MILITARY SHOPPING LIST INCLUDING NUMEROUS LETHAL ITEMS SUCH AS WEAPONS OF VARIOUS TYPES, AMMUNITION AND FLAMETHROWERS. SHLAUDEMANN SUGGESTED THAT EBERHARD MIGHT WANT TO SEPARATE OUT THE NON-LETHAL ITEMS, SUCH AS TRUCKS, AMBULANCES, BINOCULARS, ETC, AND SUBMIT THEM IN A SEPARATE NOTE SO AS TO FACILITATE OUR ABILITY TO MEET THOSE CHILEAN NEEDS WITHOUT UNNECESSARY DELAY. EBERHARD INDICATED HE WOULD DO SO. KISSINGER

SECRET

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